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Joint Action on Sewage

The unanimity with which governmental officials in nearby Virginia have thrown their support behind a regional study of mutual sanitation problems justifies hope that a money-saving anti-pollution plan can be worked out. And any proposal to save money will be welcome to taxpayers already aroused by a Virginia reassessment program that threatens them with substantially larger tax bills the coming year. Indorsement of the survey proposal became unanimous when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors agreed to have the county represented in the joint study. Arlington County, Alexandria and Falls Church already had approved the inquiry. Sanitary Engineer James J. Corbally, Jr., expressed a generally shared view in Fairfax County when he said that no opportunity should be overlooked to economize in the sewage-disposal field, even though the county has gone so far as to issue \$3 million in bonds for sewer improvements, including a treatment plant. Arlington also has approved a bond issue for a second sewage-disposal plant and Alexandria is considering a referendum on a similar bond issue. But serious questions have been raised as to the wisdom of tackling the Potomac River pollution problem in this independent, piecemeal manner. If the job can be done more efficiently by joint action, now is the time to find it out, rather than after actual construction of the new separate facilities has begun. Fairfax Supervisor Arthur Shaffer urged that the study include the feasibility of pumping all of nearby Virginia's sewage under the Potomac River to the District of Columbia treatment plant. He is right. Such a possibility has been suggested by The Star and by others interested in cleaning up the river. Apparently there are no insurmountable engineering difficulties to the piping of Virginia sewage to the District side of the river. The plan not only might save the Virginia communities a lot of money but would eliminate all sources of sewage contamination on the Virginia side. The proposal for a Virginia-District partnership on sewage disposal should be given most careful study on both sides of the Potomac.

Mr. Attlee's Talk

Prime Minister Attlee's remarks to the National Press Club will not satisfy those who think that Britain is carrying less than her share of the load in the present crisis. Mr. Attlee was careful about making commitments. He said, for instance, that "you may be certain that, in fair or foul weather, where the Stars and Stripes fly in Korea, the British flag will fly beside them. We stand by our duty. We stand by our friends." This commitment is more limited than might seem to be the case at first glance. The use of the words "in Korea" should be taken to mean that Britain pledges nothing in Asia outside Korea. If we should become involved in war in Manchuria, for example, Mr. Attlee clearly reserves the right to refuse to support us in that theater. Nevertheless, however much one might prefer a broader commitment in the face of a common danger, the Prime Minister's talk was a good and wholesome one. It rules out appeasement, and it reveals a kinship of interest and of purpose between the British and ourselves which is an invaluable asset in these dangerous times. Those in this country who indulge in scurrilous attacks on the British should pause and consider where they are going. Their apparent objective is to drive a wedge between Britain and America, to turn the people of this country away from a natural and strong ally. If they should succeed in that unworthy endeavor, the day will come when they will have much to answer for.

Stars Beyond Stars

A dispatch from Manchester to the Montreal Star tells how two British scientists have discovered stars beyond the stars of our universe. These men—R. Hanbury-Brown and C. Hazard—are astronomers of the latest class. They search the heavens with radar. What they seek are sounds rather than sights. They know that the celestial bodies of their quest are not visible but only audible. A "radio-telescope" built at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire by Dr. J. A. Clegg is the instrument they have been using in their explorations. It resembles a huge inverted umbrella and has a vertical aerial 126 feet high. To this mechanism come impulses which have been traveling toward the earth for 750,000 light years. Those pulsations have sources in space beyond any and all space known to inhabitants of our globe. Uncounted millions of them combine to make the hissing which radio listeners hear on very sensitive receivers. That sound has fascinated hundreds of auditors for a long time. It was guessed to be originating outside as well as inside the Milky Way. Because of what Messrs. Hanbury-Brown and Hazard have done, it now can be asserted with assurance that much of the vibration starts in the far extremes of the cosmos. The British team has "brought in" components of the galaxy Andromeda. "Star-transmitters" in its cloud of fragments have been detected by their listening equipment. What causes the impulses is a mystery. The sounds may be either the birth cries or the death cries of planets. Something is happening on every speck of matter in the unlimited heavens, even if paradoxically that something is in effect nothing. The hissing of the skies spells activity. But Messrs. Hanbury-Brown and Hazard have announced no theory about the nature of the movements they have heard. All that they have said is that Andromeda is only the nearest

of the outer nebulae and that what is true of its parts must be true of those of galaxies beyond galaxies. Such an affirmation logically raises more questions than it answers, yet it also has its constructive connotations. It gives assurance that we have our place in the measureless immensity of creation—and that place is well within the universal unity. The same Force that brought into being the stars beyond the stars made the eyes which now are reading these words and the brain to which these words appeal. Remembering our identity with every other aspect and phase of existence, we need not doubt the reality of the Power beyond all other powers, a Strength beyond all other might.

Worse Than Pearl Harbor

Nine years ago today, when the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, this country was better prepared for its ordeal than it is now. We were not necessarily better prepared in a strictly military sense. In some respects our rearmament program was more advanced, but in terms of air power and naval power, considering the damage done to the Pacific fleet, we were woefully unready to wage war against a Japan that boasted a measure of military power far exceeding anything we face in the Pacific today. Pearl Harbor, however, was by no means an unmitigated disaster. Prior to December 7, 1941, this country was engaged in much the same kind of debate that is under way today. But Pearl Harbor resolved the doubts and ended the arguments. From that time on we knew what had to be done, and we were able to apply ourselves to the job in hand with a singleness of purpose and a measure of dedication which brought the eventual victory. There is little of that clarity of purpose, that understanding and acceptance of the fact of war, in this country today. In Korea, we have suffered a military defeat of greater magnitude than Pearl Harbor. The attack by the Chinese Communists on our troops, forming the bulk of a United Nations army, is as much an act of war as was the Japanese assault on Pearl Harbor. But we have not been willing to look this fact in the face. Our main national emphasis is not being placed on preparation to fight the war that has already begun. There is nothing in this country today which even approaches the effort that was set under way on the day after Pearl Harbor. The Chinese continue, with impunity, to attack our forces from what General MacArthur calls their sanctuary in Manchuria, and our casualties mount by the thousands. But there is not, as yet, any official recognition of the fact that we are at war with China. There is, of course, a reason for this. At the insistence of our allies and in our own interests, we are striving to avoid that last step which would plunge us into full-scale war with China in a theater which might absorb all our energies for years to come. There is a great deal to be said for this policy. But it is also a policy which has its disadvantages, and we cannot afford to ignore them. The alternative to open war with China has to be what we speak of as a settlement with the Chinese. And it is at this point that our main difficulty arises. As long as our official policy is one of seeking a settlement, it will not be possible to bring into play the effort that this country is capable of making to prepare for war. The situation is one in which hope, confusion, and the dread of war combine to cramp our energies and paralyze our will. After Pearl Harbor we knew what had to be done and we did it. Today our national scene is one that borders on chaos. It is a situation in which conflicting advice, conflicting demands, and conflicting opinions operate to keep us marking time while events in Korea pursue their relentless course. There is another danger in this situation which should be recognized. It may be possible to arrive at some kind of settlement with China. Thirteen members of the U. N. have already appealed to the Chinese to halt their attack at the 38th Parallel, and there is a chance that the Chinese may do this. But we should not fall into the error of thinking that this would be a settlement in any real sense of the term. In the short run, it might extricate us from an untenable military position at the price of conceding and rewarding China's aggression, with all that this would entail in the way of lost prestige for the U. N. and for this country. Actually, however, it would settle little or nothing. Our real conflict, our real clash of interests, springs from our failure, after nearly five years of effort, to find any basis for a decent and tolerable living arrangement with the Russians. It is the military power of Russia, not that of the Chinese Communists, which threatens our survival as a nation, and this is something which we should never forget. Conceivably, we may reach a settlement in Korea. But if we should permit that to lull us into thinking that we have really "settled" anything, and least of all that we have settled our differences with Russia, we would only be taking one more step down that road of self-delusion which leads to catastrophe.

Fitzgerald's Papers

The daughter of F. Scott Fitzgerald was well-advised to give his manuscripts to Princeton. He was a member of the class of 1917 there and, though he did not graduate, he loved the university, and it was a major influence in his life and work. What use eventually may be made of the papers remains to be seen, but there can be no question about the wisdom which Mrs. Lanahan has shown in depositing them where they should be at once safe and available for study. Her father, as it happens, was more interesting than anything he ever wrote. People commonly failed to fathom him, and Fitzgerald did not understand himself at any stage of his career. The instinct to be a literary artist was the driving force which carried him forward, but it lacked the correlative force of a directing element. He had power, yet his target—aside from wanting to be a genius—was uncertain. In quest of a solution for his problem he tried the army, journalism, advertising, novels, short stories, film scripts. Nowhere did he hit 1,000. Neither did he fail completely. The critics who have tried to explain him have not done so by repeating that he was the top interpreter of the jazz age. Fitzgerald was more than the historian of a million Clara Bows, a million Rudolph Valentinos. There is more to his achievement than an album of pictures of "flaming youth." Possibly the fact that he was only 44 when he died provides a clue to what he really was and what he actually did. Perhaps he had in his mind and in his heart the making of a Voltaire or a Balzac. His legend, still flourishing, suggests that his tragedy was that he never managed to emerge from the apprentice stage. Whatever may be the proper diagnosis, his papers should show. Thus his daughter has done a service to him—as well as to American literature—by placing them where she has put them.

Tough Turkey—Middle-East Watchdog

By L. Edgar Primo

THE heroic demonstration of fighting prowess by the 5,000-man Turkish brigade in Korea has afforded the peoples of the free world this comforting thought: There are 375,000 more like them in the army at home. And should the Soviet Union make an aggressive move toward the Dardanelles, the Suez or the Near East, the Turks probably could put nearly 2 million trained men in uniform, thanks to universal military training.

That the tough, hard-bitten Turkish soldier is a first-class fighting man may come as a pleasant surprise to many Americans, but not so to the Turks. An official of the Turkish Embassy here, commenting on reports describing the exploits of his countrymen in Korea, said:

"Give us a piece of territory to defend, and—depend on it—we'll defend it to the end. We Turks haven't had a chance to show what we can do as soldiers since we drove out the invading Greek and Allied armies in the early 1920s." The hand-picked Turkish brigade in Korea is a self-supporting, reinforced unit—a sort of souped-up regimental combat team. It has its own artillery and communications. It carries a replacement pool, medical organization, postal and mess staffs.

An American unit of the "housekeeping" units have got into the fight. The Embassy spokesman said that many of the cooks demanded to be allowed to go up front, contending they were soldiers first and cooks second. They got permission.

These fighting cooks were with other elements of the brigade cut off by the Chinese Reds last week. Low on ammunition, the Turks fixed bayonets and charged. When the action was completed 200 Reds lay dead and 200 others had been taken prisoner. An American unit fought its way up to the Turks, providing an escape route. But the Turkish commander, Brig. Gen. Yazicki, declined to flee the "trap." "We are killing too many Chinese," he said.

The Turks finally broke out, carrying their wounded on their backs, after fighting a courageous rear-guard action to aid retreating 8th Army troops. About 500 of them were killed.

The Turkish armed forces, which have been unified for 15 years, are commanded by Gen. Nuri Yamut. He has more power, relatively, than Gen. Bradley, chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Yamut has the final say. Serving under him are Gen. Kurtuldu Noyan, army chief; Admiral Sadik Altindjan of the navy and Gen. Muzaffer Goksenim of the air force.

Universal military training has been in effect in Turkey for many years.



Turkish soldiers in Korea, taking a breather after 48 hours of continuous battle against the Chinese. —AP Photo.

Men between the ages of 21 and 28 are required to serve for 18 months. Those who have had high school education or less are put in the non-commissioned ranks. College graduates are given officer training, but normally they can advance only to company grade rank.

The professional officer corps, up to the rank of general, are trained at the military college. Generals and admirals attend the staff college. Turkey keeps the officer corps large enough, even in peace time, to meet the needs of full mobilization.

Before our Joint Military Mission for Aid to Turkey began functioning under the Truman Doctrine in 1947, Turkey never had a cadre of non-commissioned officers—the backbone of our armed services. Now, however, careers have been opened up for such men in the Turkish forces.

That isn't the only way the Turks have benefited from American aid. More than \$1.6 billion has gone to Turkey and Greece in the last three years in the form of Truman Doctrine, ECA and Mutual Defense Assistance program grants. With this money, modern equipment and training have been provided. Standardization of weapons is under way, and a network of military roads is being constructed. The 650-member military mission is "training Turks to train Turks."

Acting on the recommendation of American experts, the Turks actually have cut down the size of their standing

army from the 500,000-man force it maintained in 1947. Today they have a compact, hard-hitting machine of 22-25 divisions of about 15,000 men each.

In September, the Turkish armed forces held what has been officially described as "extremely successful large-scale military maneuvers." Tanks, planes and ships participated.

The Turks say that theirs is not purely a defensive force, and point out that they could, in the event of a Russian attack in Western Europe, smash at the Soviet flank.

Turkey has been negotiating a mutual defense pact with Greece which, when consummated, may later include Italy and Yugoslavia. Such a line-up would put a very sizeable force on Russia's flank.

Turkey's chief strength lies not alone in its 2 million bayonets, but in the unity of its 20.5 million citizens. Since it broke with the past in 1923, under Ataturk, it has embraced Western ideals and democratic principles. Its firmness in the face of heavy Soviet pressure has earned it a high place in the ranks of the free nations.

When the American taxpayer contemplates the aid-money spent since World War II, he probably will come up with the verdict of most of our military experts: Nowhere have the dollars been spent more wisely or to better advantage than in Turkey, guardian of the Middle East.

Letters to The Star . . .

All letters subject to condensation. Pen-names may be used if letters carry writers' correct names and addresses.

Undisgusted Doctor

I feel that I am well qualified to answer the recent letter from "Disgusted Doctor" as I, too, finished my medical education at my own expense during the last war and did not see any military service—up to the present. I volunteered for duty and was accepted as soon as the Korean situation developed. I did not wait to get a draft call, like Disgusted did. My status the last time was 4P, too, but what Disgusted does not realize is that this was seven years ago, and not 1950.

Doesn't he know that his physical defect can change, or that the requirements can change in seven years? The latest physical exam I took for the services was admittedly crude, but it achieved its desired results: namely, the placing of doctors like myself, and Disgusted, too, I hope, into uniform as quickly as possible.

That is why Disgusted is really objecting to the exam: Not its crudeness or its rudeness to him, but its possible effectiveness.

As to the possibility that a physical defect may be overlooked, for which he will collect disability payments later, I should think that he would be the type who would welcome with open arms such an eventuality. After all, didn't he wait until the very last minute to get drafted? These payments will be shared by him anyway, in the form of income taxes, or does he plan to beat Uncle Sam out of that, too?

It is high time for Disgusted to abandon his cringing position behind the apron strings of professional dignity and step forward bravely to serve his country like the true American that I believe he must basically be. I have a wife and three little babies to drag around the country with me. How many dependents do you have, Disgusted?

Hubert F. Manuzak, M. D.

Horse-Mounted Troop

I see in the paper that our highly mechanized Army is getting pretty well beaten up by a lot of mounted troops of the Chinese Red army. Somebody's face in the Pentagon should be pretty red over that, since we have banished all horses from our Army except the few old greys at Ft. Myer—for burial purposes—and a small mounted detachment of M.P.s in Germany.

Horse-mounted cavalry with its sabers and charges is out. One machine gun can pretty well break up the charge of a

whole regiment. But horse-mounted troops—heavily armed with machine guns, bazookas, mortars and some of our other new light artillery pieces—operating as a fast mobile unit to fight on foot, could do a vast amount of damage where our mechanized forces would be practically useless.

A tank can't go five seconds without fuel, and only a little longer without water. But a horse can go maybe two days.

Even in Europe and Russia during the last war, as I remember, the Russians had almost 3 million horse-mounted troops, and the Germans about 300,000. Reason: Old man mud, and lack of fuel in the right place for mechanized outfits.

Frederick J. Chapin.

Bells, Bells, Bells

I have been thinking about a letter in The Star recently, from one who cannot endure the chiming of the carillons in the Dupont Circle area. He suggests that churches confine the manifestations of their religious within the four walls of their edifices. Back to the catacombs, I suppose! Well, we'll not do it. America was founded for religious freedom and we shall continue to broadcast it far and wide. If the ringing of bells injures this fellow's health, as he claims it does, he must not have had much health to start with.

Bells of all kinds are a part of our American heritage. There was the town crier with his warning bell. And the curfew bell. The bells on the buoys helped guide the ships. The bells along El Camino, the royal highway along the West Coast of California, where the Franciscan fathers founded the early Catholic missions and built this road to guide the traveler from San Diego up the coast. These road bells are gone, and it's a pity.

The Liberty Bell tolled forth the signing of our Declaration of Independence.

I love all kinds of bells. The little bell around the cat's neck, the larger one the cow wears. The bell of the scissors grinder is seldom heard these days, and more's the pity. Bells on the ice-cream wagon, in music boxes and on sleighs, dinner bells or doorbells. I love them all. But best of all, church bells, chiming and carillons.

I feel sorry for any one who dislikes bells. The biggest bell in the world was made in Moscow. "The Tsar Kolokol," weight 219 tons. It was never rung because an 11-ton piece broke off,

silencing it forever. A sad, sad thing for the Russians, missing all those chimings because they guessed wrong about how big a bell can get without falling to pieces!

There are over 50 carillons in the United States. May there be many more. And may they continue to ring out their messages to all with ears to hear. Those who cannot endure the ringing of bells had better fly to other climes. There is no place for them here. We are, and always have been, a land of many bells. And, please God, we will stay that way.

Laura K. Pollock.

I work at an unusual hour, but I could not find myself objecting to such beauty. I do find myself humming a familiar tune when it is being played. One feels uplifted spiritually. That is what is wrong with the world today. Too many people have little regard for spiritual values.

I suggest that the writer of the anti-carillon letter move to some neighborhood where he will not be disturbed.

S. L. Mizell.

Praise for T. R. Henry

Thomas R. Henry merits high compliments for the ever-interesting articles on science that he writes in The Star. His style and language make understanding easy, even for those readers who have small knowledge of the subject he discusses.

If Mr. Henry were to publish, at more regular intervals, descriptive accounts of the heavenly bodies and their positions at various times of the year, there is no doubt that such narratives would be pleasing to the many people who still gaze by night in wonder at the skies.

J. W. Haywood, Jr.

Suspicious

The Star of December 2 carries an entry headed: "Tobin Says Management and Labor Must Sacrifice."

Query: Who are to be the victims offered up this time? The usual ones—or you and me? E. McLean Johnson.

Salt Without Savor

Christianity has not failed. But its followers have failed to live up to its teaching, and have become as salt that has lost its savor and is good for nought but to be cast out and trodden underfoot.

Earl Cripps.

Miami, Fla.

The Political Mill

Removal of Acheson Urged by Senator Ives

Congress Republicans Favor Change in State Department

By Gould Lincoln

On the ground that as long as Dean Acheson remains Secretary of State the country will not be unified on foreign policy, Senator Irving Ives, Republican, of New York has proposed Mr. Acheson's removal. Further, he has asked the Republicans of the Senate to take formal action on his proposal and to address a letter to President Truman asking the removal of Mr. Acheson.

There is not a Republican Senator who does not believe that the country would be better off with Mr. Acheson out of the State Department. Also there are Democratic Senators who have come to the same opinion. On the other hand, there are some Republican Senators who are reluctant to (1) plunge themselves into an affair which belongs to the Executive Branch of the Government, and (2) make the removal of Mr. Acheson so strictly a party issue, and (3) believe that such a demand upon the President would be effective.

To Senator Ives, however, the transcendent need today is a unified country to meet the dangers which threaten from without, and if there is to be unity there must be bipartisanship, with Republicans willing to go right along with the foreign policy. This outweighs, so far as he is concerned, any argument that Senators should keep hands off and leave Mr. Acheson entirely to President Truman, who appointed him and who can accept his resignation, or even fire him, at any time the President sees fit.

Issues in Campaign. As for point (2), Mr. Ives points out that Mr. Acheson and his policies and handling of the State Department were all made issues—and big issues in the November election campaign. Also in the opinion of Mr. Ives the Republicans in the Senate should not be deterred in their action on Mr. Acheson by the suggestion that it would arouse the ire of Mr. Truman, who would decline to get rid of Mr. Acheson. Mr. Truman, the New York Senator asserts, should not let any such feelings interfere with the best interests of the country—and those best interests are the removal of Mr. Acheson.

The Acheson issue goes far beyond party lines, too, Mr. Ives insists, when some of his colleagues question whether it would be particularly wise to take party action. It has long been evident, Mr. Ives contends, that the country has lost confidence in Mr. Acheson and in the State Department under his direction.

To those who argue that such a move by the Republicans of the Senate would lessen, not enhance, chances of a bipartisan foreign policy, Mr. Ives replies flatly there is no chance of bi-partisan policy as long as Mr. Acheson is Secretary of State. He contends that the Republicans are anxious to go along on foreign policy under the leadership of a Secretary of State in whom they can have confidence.

A bi-partisan foreign policy was maintained during the last war and for the period following the war—so far as Europe was concerned. Mr. Ives himself was for it. Also Mr. Ives voted for the confirmation of Mr. Acheson as Secretary of State. He belongs to the more internationally minded group of Senate Republicans. Because he does, his attack on and demand for the removal of Mr. Acheson is all the more impressive.

Puts Issue in Foreground. Mr. Ives is not a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has rushed in, so to speak, where the Republican members of that committee have not trod—although some of them have been extremely critical of the Secretary of State. If there is an inclination there to bat his ears down, it is not moving directly to that end, but rather through indirection.

Anyway, Mr. Ives's proposal has brought the Acheson issue more prominently than ever into the foreground. Senators' mail, complaining of Mr. Acheson, has been extremely heavy. Many of the correspondents charge him with being responsible, in the past, for the build-up of Communist China by following policies that were bound to result in that end.

The reaction of Mr. Truman to a Senate Republican request to dump Mr. Acheson might, of course, be angry rejection. He might say he was proposing an American foreign policy and that if the Republicans did not want to join in it, that was their responsibility. The fact remains, however, that the country today—as expressed through many mediums—wants to get rid of Mr. Acheson as Secretary of State.

The Republicans are putting forward no candidate for Mr. Acheson's cabinet place. However, the gossip has centered about Paul Hoffman, Robert Lovett, Undersecretary of Defense Vinson. One rumor is that Mr. Hoffman actually was approached, but was unwilling.

Questions and Answers

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Evening Star Information Bureau, 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. Please enclose three (3) cents for return postage.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE.

Q. What is the total area of all land owned by the railroads in tracks, stations, shops, yards and the like?—E. S. D. A. The total amounts to over 4 million acres. This is equivalent to the entire area of the State of Connecticut.

Q. Where are the longest verses in the Old and New Testaments?—G. V. R. A. The longest in the Old Testament is Esther 8:9 and in the New Testament Revelation 20:4. The former has 90 words and the latter 68 words.

Q. Are the members of the Pope's Swiss Guard all natives of Switzerland?—W. I. D. A. All the members of the guard are actually Swiss, and are paid in Swiss francs. The men sign up for a 3-year enlistment and get no leave until the end of their tour of duty.

Snow at Night. The earth is filled with stars tonight, The sky has not by half so many; There is no tree, or bush, or twig So small it has not any.

Stars glow from every fence, they swing From every tree or hanging wire; And all are lit with a blue, A gold, and a crimson fire. O angels of the heavenly realm, Look down, I pray, through the luminous night, See what a splendor snow has made Of our humble roof tonight!

ROSE MYRA PHILLIPS.